

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A retroviral vector for introducing a desired, expressible DNA into a mammalian cell, wherein the retroviral vector comprises the following sequences: A first DNA sequence corresponding to the reverse transcript of at least part of a feline foamy virus (FeFV), and a second DNA sequence permitting the propagation in bacteria.

2. (Original) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the vector further comprises a desired expressible foreign DNA.

3. (Previously Presented) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the first DNA sequence comprises the reverse transcript of the entire foamy virus.

4. (Currently Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the first DNA sequence comprises both 5 'LTR and 3 'LTR of a feline foamy virus.

5. (Currently Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 2 4, wherein the foreign second DNA sequence is inserted in the 5 'LTR region and/or 3 'LTR region of the foamy virus.

6. (Previously Presented) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, which additionally contains a gene coding for an identifiable phenotypic marker.

7. (Previously Presented) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the foreign DNA sequence codes for neutralizing epitopes of the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) or the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

8. (Previously Presented) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the first DNA sequence is that of the plasmid pFeFv-7 deposited with the DSMZ (German Type Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures) on November 23, 1998 (DSM 12514).

9. (Previously Presented) A plasmid containing the retroviral vector according to claim 1.

10. (Original) A cell containing the plasmid according to claim 9.

11. (Original) A cell according to claim 10, which is an animal cell.

12. (Original) The cell according to claim 11, which is a mammalian cell.

13. (Withdrawn) A transgenic animal containing the retroviral vector according to claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for vaccination comprising administering an effective amount of the vector of claim 1 to a patient in need of such vaccination.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the vaccination of cats against FIV or human beings against HIV comprising administering an effective amount of the vector of claim 1 to a cat or human in need of such vaccination.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the gene-therapeutic treatment of patients comprising administering an effective amount of the vector of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

17. (New) The retroviral vector according to claim 2, wherein the Gag, Pol and Env genes of feline foamy virus are replaced by the foreign DNA to be expressed.

18. (New) The retroviral vector according to claim 4, wherein the foreign DNA to be expressed is inserted between the 5'LTR and 3'LTR of the first DNA sequence of the feline foamy virus.

19. (New) The retroviral vector according to claim 2, wherein the foreign DNA to be expressed is inserted in the Gag, Env or Bel2 gene of the feline foamy virus.

20. (New) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein the Bell transactivator of the feline foamy virus is inactivated or deleted.